Use of IAF planes/helicopters by the Prime Minister

885. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister is entitled to requisition and use INF planes and helicopters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister has requisitioned and used IAF planes and helicopters during February, 1990; and

(c) if so, the total distance which the IAF aircraft have against his requisitions during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The total distance covered was 19,140 Kms.

Therapeutic value of garlic

886. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any R&D work was carried out on therapeutic value of garlic in the forties; if so, the details therefor;

(b) whether R&D work on garlic has been continued in India and elsewhere since then; if so, the findings including the work done in ICMR/ICAR/CSIR laboratories;

(c) whether garlic preparations have found a place as a regular remedy; and

(d) whether any Government/Public Sector Units are manufacturing/Marketing these curative medicines; if so, the details thereof, indicating price-structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The R&D work on the therapeutic values of garlic pertains among others to its cholestrol lowering activity, antibacterial & antibiotic properties, and the curative values for dyspepsia and arthritis. The findings have been that garlic oil has the possibility of lowering cholestrol.

(c) Garlic preparations/extracts are used in the Indian system of medicine.

(d) As per the information available, a unit in the Private Sector is manufacturing/marketing the essential oil extract of garlic in the form of capsules.

Soviet offer of fighter aircraft for India

887. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has offered its latest fighter aircraft to India for air defence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer and the Indian Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting between Minister of State for Environment and Forests and West German Development Minister

888. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Environment and Forests had a